



United States Department of State

*The Legal Adviser*

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 1, 2007

The Honorable Peter D. Keisler  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: *Howland v. Resteiner*, No. CV-07-2332 (ILG) (E.D.N.Y.)

Dear Mr. Keisler:

The above-captioned suit names Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, as a defendant.

The Government of Grenada has formally requested that the Government of the United States suggest the immunity of Prime Minister Mitchell.

The Department of State recognizes and allows the immunity of Prime Minister Mitchell from this suit. Under the rules of customary international law, recognized and applied in the United States, Prime Minister Mitchell, as the sitting head of government of a foreign state, is immune from the jurisdiction of the United States courts. Accordingly, the Department of State requests that the Department of Justice submit to the district court an appropriate Suggestion of Immunity at the earliest opportunity.

This letter recognizes the particular importance attached by the United States to obtaining the prompt dismissal of the proceedings against Prime Minister Mitchell in view of the significant foreign policy implications of such an action against the head of a foreign government.

Sincerely,

John B. Bellinger, III

cc: Vincent Garvey  
Federal Programs Branch, U.S. Department of Justice

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